which alone responsibility could be introduced. He suggested certain broad principles which ought to be borne in mind. Referring to the Dewan's statement in the Opening Address that Bills for the introduction of Local Boards and District Boards were under preparation, that the rules relating to the Popular Assembly would be revised and that the Legislative Council would be reconstituted, the Member said that all the popular institutions should be considered together. Beginning from Local Government, we should proceed further on to the Central Government. Local self-government must be made a living reality. In other words the local bodies as well as the Municipal councils should have a free hand in the administration of their affairs. The Local Boards must be made really responsible bodies and not merely advisory bodies.

Coming to the Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council, the Member said that here also the aim should be to give responsibility to such bodies. With the expansion of the Legislative Council, the importance and significance of the Popular Assembly had diminished. It was also doubted whether it was not merely a duplicate of the other, because they both represented the same interests. The Member was of the opinion that it should be the object of the Government to make them represent different interests like the two Houses of Parliament. His suggestion was that the Legislative Council should be made a more democratic institution, on a broad franchise, where education as well as other ordinary interests might be fully and really represented, while the Popular Assembly should mainly represent the landed and the monied interests. Representation of minorities could be more effective in the latter. It should attract to it the services of experienced retired officers. Thus it could be made a progressive conservative body. It should have powers to put interpellations and to move resolutions. The members should have the right to discuss and record for the consideration of Government their opinions on all questions of general policy and all new proposals involving enhancement of taxation. The tenure of a member should not be for so short a period as one year, for no one could make himself useful within that period. It should extend at least for three years. Such changes alone would attract really capable men to the Assembly. Standing Committees elected from among the members of the Assembly and the Legislative Council should be appointed as advisory bodies to the officers in charge of important departments of Government. Finally, the Member said that the Popular Assembly should be so constituted as to enable it to watch and control Government, to throw publicity on their acts and to compel a full exposition and justification of all their measures. Regarding the Legislative Council, the Member indicated certain broad principles such as that the franchise should be as low as possible so that all the interests in the State might be fully represented, and that responsibility should be given to the Council, so that its criticism might not be irresponsible.

The Member also referred to the necessity for the institution of an Executive Council. He wanted it not mainly on the ground of making it possible to give the administration a responsible character, but on the ground of efficiency as well. Single-headed administration, however sufficient for a small State at an early stage, was now quite unsatisfactory, because it was inadequate to cope with the increasing variety of administrative business. Moreover, collective decisions in a Council Government as a result of bringing together different points of view were more likely to be judicious and well-weighed than those of a single-headed Government. It was unfortunate that, while Travancore was imitating British Indian administrative measures closely, the sound and efficient system of Council Government had not been adopted here. The reform was long overdue. He prayed that the Government be pleased to give effect to it at an early date.

Dewan's reply.—Noted for consideration.

137. Need for entertaining South Travancore Christians in the lower ranks of the public services.

Mr. D. Francis (Member, Nominated) said that the Catholic Christians of South Travancore, though numbering more than 200,000 people, were very backward

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in education, that the community had yet to realise the value and importance of education which alone would raise their social and political status and that the community had not yet produced many qualified men. The Member observed that a rigid adherence to the rules regarding the qualifications for entertainment in the public service should not be insisted on in the case of applicants from his community and prayed that the educational concessions granted to the Ezhavas and Mahomedans might be extended to his community also. The Member also prayed :—

(1) that a scholarship might be given to qualified students of the community to prosecute their studies on professional lines outside Travancore;

(2) that the several young men of the community, styled non-matriculates, who were able to work in the different departments in such subordinate positions as maistries in the P. W. department, copyists and volunteers in the Courts and Cutcherries, petty officers in the Excise department and head constables in the Police department, might be encouraged by being appointed to suitable posts; and

(3) that orders might be issued to all heads of departments to give preference to the Catholic applicants of South Travancore in the matter of appointments in the lower ranks of the State service.

Dewan's reply.—I have already told you in my opening Address that it is the aim of Government to secure a fair representation of all communities in the public service.

138. Inadequate entertainment of Nairs in the Public Service of the State.

Mr. V. Ramakrishna Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Kuzhittura) said that from the third session of the Assembly, the requests of individual communities for entertainment in increased numbers in the public service of persons belonging to their own sect or class began to be made in the shape of representations through their Members. Including the last session, 80 Members had spoken on the subject, consisting of 34 Christians, 28 Ezhavas, 10 Mahomedans, 2 Malayala Brahmins, 4 members of the depressed classes, 1 Kanian and 1 Nair. It was therefore clear that out of 80 members, only one Nair member took up the subject pertaining to his community, and even that representation was made only at the fourteenth session of the Assembly. If the Nairs were not clamorous in their demands in the past, their dignified reticence was due not to their contentment but to their unbounded faith in the good sense and generosity of Government. Now the community realised the risk of their silence, and they were driven to the necessity of making themselves heard. The representations of individual communities for the bestowal of an increased number of appointments on the men of their community had the desired effect, and a greater number of members from such communities were appointed in the higher ranks of the public service. The Nairs who shed their blood and sacrificed their wealth for their country and their sovereign, who were mainly responsible for the consolidation of the several petty States and Chieftancies into modern Travancore in the times of that great warrior King Martanda Varma Maha Raja and His successor, Rama Varma Maha Raja, better known as Dharmaraja, and who were spontaneously given dignities and privileges and positions of trust and honor in the administrative machinery of the Government for their loyal and meritorious services, had now become a neglected factor, and they were very sparsely represented in the higher ranks of almost all the departments of the State. The Member then gave statistics of the appointments in the public service on Rs. 100 and above and the number of posts held by Nairs and other communities. He referred to the free entertainment of foreigners in the service of the State which began from the time of Dewan Sir T. Madhava Row on the ground that a knowledge of English was essential for the administration of the country and that the natives of the country did not know that language, and he described how that step was strongly condemned by the press and the platform and by the then Madras Government, how eventually such foreign importation led to the presentation of a monster memorial to His Highness the Maha Raja about 30 years ago urging the appointment of natives of the country to appointments within the State, and how keenly the people of the country

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